

Message Text

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63

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01

SSO-00 NSCE-00 /042 W

----- 123773

O P 190201Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1762

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMUSJ YOKOTA JAPAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9769

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, MARR, JA (SCHLESINGER, JAMES)

SUBJ: SECDEF VISIT- PUBLIC AFFIARS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. MEDIA INTEREST IN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S VISIT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE HIGH. THE EMBASSY HAS ALREADY RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR SPEAKING APPEARANCES BEFORE THE PRESTIGIOUS JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AND THE AMERICA-JAPAN SOCIETY AND FOR A TV INTERVIEW. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB HAS ALSO APPROACHED SECDEF DIRECTLY.

2. EMBASSY FEELS THAT SOME SORT OF PUBLIC APPEARANCE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN ORDER THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT PRESENT VIEWS DIRECTLY AND THUS MINIMIZE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH INEVITABLY ARISE FROM SPECULATIVE SECOND-HAND REPORTS BASED ON JAPANESE BACKGROUNDEERS. PUBLIC ESPOSURE BY SECREATARY WOULD ALSO FIT GERERAL MIKI-SAKATA INCLINATION TOWARD MORE OPENNESS AS MEANS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION ON SECURITY.

3. HOWEVER, GIVEN SENSITIVITIES IN JAPANESE DOMESTIC
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CONTEXT ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES LIKELY TO COME UP IN A FREE-WHELLING PRESS CONFERENCE--SUCH AS LOCATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND U.S. POLICY ON FIRST STRIKE--EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT PUBLIC APPEARANCES BE IN A MORE EASILY

CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT. OPTIMAL VEHICLE WOULD BE
NATIONALLY TELEVISED INTERVIEW, WITH QUESTIONS SUBMITTED
AND AGREED TO IN ADVANCE. IF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER
AGREES, THE EMBASSY WILL PROCEED WITH SETTING UP SUCH
AN INTERVIEW.
HODGSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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